

# Town of Simsbury

754 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## Aging and Disability Commission

### AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

May 20, 2003

#### MINUTES

Vice-chairperson Charlotte Steptoe, in the Blue Room at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Present: Ricki Bergquist (staff consultant), Grace Comeau, Kathy Fallon, Gloria Knierim, Ed LaMontagne, Charlotte Steptoe, Eileen Umpleby, Moira Wertheimer and Lynn Veith.

Not Present: Maryann Alimi, Peg Bergethon (excused) Norris Christensen, John Romano (Bd. Of Selectmen liaison), and Gwenne Simpson (excused).

Public Audience: None

Guest Speaker: Gerard Toner, Director, Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation. Mr. Toner, at the request of the Commission presented a brief overview regarding culture, park and recreation program opportunities for town residents with disabilities. Specifically, Mr. Toner discussed the department's relationship with Special Olympics; the special needs golf program; and day camp programs.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Upon a motion made by Gloria Knierim and seconded by Grace Comeau, the minutes of the April 15, 2003 were accepted.

#### Reports - Subcommittees/Projects

Disability Subcommittee: Ed informed the commission that eight nomination forms were received for the Ability Awareness Award. The Ability Awareness Award sub-committee selected Rose

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McGurkin-Fuhr as this year's recipient. Ed will arrange for a plaque and send a letter to Ms. McGurkin-Fuhr. The plaque will be presented at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Selectman meeting.

Ed distributed an AARP report entitled "Beyond 50.03, A Report to the Nation on Independent Living and Disability."

Ed also informed the Commission that he possesses a copy of the ADA accessibility requirements checklist, which he will distribute to the Commission's ADA compliance subcommittee members.

Ed LaMontagne, Kathy Fallon and Lynn Veith volunteered to serve on the ADA compliance sub-committee. Ricki Bergquist will serve as a staff consultant for the sub-committee. The purpose of the sub-committee is to review the 1993 compliance report and develop an action plan for areas not yet brought into compliance. They will submit a memo with the results/recommendations following their review.

#### **Legislative Subcommittee:**

Federal: Moira reported that the U.S. Supreme Court issued a recent ruling that could allow small companies to avoid a law requiring special accommodations for disabled workers. See, *Clackamas Gastroenterology Associates v. Wells*.

In addition, Moira reported that the U.S. House of Representatives has backed a change in special education. Specifically, the proposal would allow parents of special education students who attend low-performing schools to use federal special education money to buy private tutoring.

State: Lynn reported that there would not an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates. She also reported that there is pending legislation to mandate sprinkler systems in nursing homes.

**Housing Issues:** None.

**Souper Tuesday Luncheons:** The dates for the 2004 Souper Tuesday Luncheons are 1/27; 2/24; 3/23 and 4/27. The Commission, upon motion made by Ed LaMontagne decided unanimously that there would be \$2.00 charge to register for Souper Tuesday. This fee would be refunded to the attendees upon arrival at the luncheon. Ricki will publicize this change.

**Ways and Means:** No report.

**Senior Center:** Ricki reported that a landscaping project was completed on the North side of the Eno building. Specifically, Imperial gardens donated the material and a Brownie Troop from Central School helped Senior Center volunteers to do the planting. FAVARH volunteers will water the plantings.

Ricki also reported that memberships at the Senior Center have increased to 1,077. The Progressive Lunch was also very successful.

Ricki also reported that the Senior Center's Relay for Life team is looking for donations for the June 6 and 7th event.

**Old Business:**

**Music for All Ages:** Eileen reported that the music for the event was very good, but the event was not as well attended. The event coincided with the Earth Day Celebration held at Simsbury Farms. Holding the event on a different date will be discussed at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

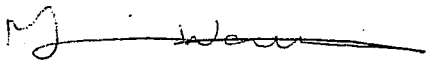
**Picnic in the Park:** Will be held last Sunday in September. The starting time will be moved ahead to 11:30 a.m. to accommodate the work schedules of residential staff members assisting attendees.

**Fashion Show:** No report.

**Other:** Gloria presented information on a program called Equistrides, located in North Granby. This organization provides horseback riding experience for individuals with disabilities.

**Adjournment:** The next meeting is on June 17th, 2003. Ed LaMontagne made a motion to adjourn and Grace Comeau seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m. .

Respectfully submitted,



Moira Wertheimer  
Clerk

PGB/mhr  
word/data/docs/Aging and Disability minutes

